

THE FORT SUMNER REVIEW
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY THE
REVIEW PUBLISHING CO.

J. R. BAKER, Editor and Manager.
J. V. STEARNS, Publisher.

Subscription, \$1 a Year, Cash.

Rates for Advertising and Job Work on application.
Bills due on the first day of the month.
Address all letters to the "Review Publishing Company."

Entered as second class mail matter at Fort Sumner, New Mexico. (Post Office, Sunnyside, N. M.)

Devoted to the interests of Fort Sumner, of Guadalupe County, and of New Mexico.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

The Revising Of The Catholic Bible.

[New York Sun.]

It is well known that throughout Catholic Christendom since the time of Gregory the Great the authorized version of the Scriptures has been the Vulgate, or Latin translation of the Old and New Testaments, originally made by St. Jerome near the close of the fourth century of our era. The edition of this version which is now sanctioned is the Clementine, published in 1533, after a revision had occupied forty years. It was hoped that a good deal of aid might be derived from this latest form of the Vulgate at the time when a revision of the King James version of the Scriptures, authorized to be used in the Church of England, was undertaken by English and American scholars. A disappointment, however, was experienced, as even the Clementine text of the Vulgate was found to be corrupt or untrustworthy.

Taking cognizance of the imperfections of the Catholic Bible the present Pope determined to correct them. In May, 1907 he committed the task of revising the Vulgate to the Order of the Benedictines, and to that end a commission was appointed with Abbot Gasquet, president of the English Benedictines, at its head.

The object of the commission, according to the Pope's definite instructions, is to ascertain and restore as far as possible the original text of St. Jerome's Latin translation. How far St. Jerome's translation itself represents the Hebrew or Greek originals is another question, which may be a subject for future criticism and another commission.

For the moment the task is its accurate reproduction.

The difficulties to be dealt with will be appreciated when we recall those which had to be surmounted even fifteen centuries ago. When Pope Damasus employed Jerome to revise the Latin Bible there was already a confusion of rival versions, conspicuous among which was so-called "Itala." Jerome, however, had advantages which are not possessed today. He could compare dozens of ancient texts for one that is now in existence.

Then again, he had before him the "Hexaplar" of Origen, which represented not the Septuagint in a state to which we can never hope to restore it, but the literal Greek translations of Aquila, Theodotion and Symmachus, of which we have only fragments.

It is further to be noted that scarcely had Jerome's translation been completed than it began itself to fall into corruption, because it was received with scant favor by people accustomed to the old versions, especially in the liturgy, and at the most it was current side by side with the more familiar "Itala" until Gregory the Great intervened and ordered Jerome's translation to be generally used except in the Psalter. Nor was it until 1533 that an "authentic" version of the Vulgate was published by Clement VIII.

There is no doubt that the revising of the Clementine text of the Vulgate is now being

conducted on the most modern and scientific lines. An exhaustive investigation is making through all the libraries of Europe in the hope of finding hitherto unrecognized manuscript copies of the Vulgate. A special commission has been organized to examine the libraries and cathedral archives of Spain in search of fresh material. Spain is thought to offer a promising field for such discoveries, having been outside Charlemagne's authority it was not subjected, as were other Catholic countries, to the influence of the Alcuin version, which elsewhere in the ninth century superseded all other versions of Jerome's translation. It is impossible to say what treasures may not still lie hidden in the churches and monasteries of Spain.

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Seven Hundred Fools.

[Rosenvelt County Herald.]

Is that too pointed? Well, what would you call those seven hundred people who left Roswell and other points down the Pecos Valley because, forsooth, somebody said that somebody else said that some prophet somewhere, perhaps in New York, had prophesied that the Pecos Valley was going to sink sometime between the 4th and 14th just past? And those seven hundred were not all negroes either. A good lady above the average intelligence who was sojourning in Artesia claimed that she felt two small earth-quake shocks Wednesday 4th. When she was laughed out of court by those to whom she related this wonderful experience, she insisted that such a thing was possible! Yes? Possible that any scientific man who is worthy of the name or the trustworthiness of being called a prophet would have good reasons to believe that a seismic disturbance involving the lives of so many thousands of people was about to occur and not warn them over his own signature or at least give the people some hint as to who he was, where he lived and on what he was basing his conclusions? Preposterous! In our judgement it was a clever real estate "knock." But just how any one except ignorant negroes and fools could be scared out of their wits by a prophecy about which

no one knew anything and indeed no one could know anything is beyond us. We pass it up to the Tenderfoot.

The Santa Fe New Mexican

The oldest Daily in the Southwest. \$1.75 per quarter year.

If there is anything despicable it is a young man who stands at the street corner, and delights in making dirty, low down remarks of the passing ladies, regardless of their age. A good sound clubbing when he is in the glory of his contemptible habit would likely help some and possibly it might work a complete cure, at least he would learn to avoid blowing off his foul mouth on public street corners. — Gallup Enterprise.

For Sale—120 acres of patented land, within 5 miles of Fort Sumner; living water; a choice place for a dairy ranch; cheap for cash.

C. W. FOOR.

Let The Truth Be Told.

[New Mexican Review.]

There is destitution among the homesteaders in portions of the Estancia valley and in parts of Eastern New Mexico. There are appeals for help, pitiful and heart-rending that are coming in increasing numbers to the executive office in Santa Fe. There are also petitions signed by whole sections, asking the government to step in and save families from starvation. There are families housed in one room shacks dotted over the dry mesas who do not know where the next meal is to come from or where to get the rags to cover them during the winter. This is deplorable. Governor Curry is setting to work every agency that he can reach and will within a few days dispatch A. T. Koch, a special representative, to the Estancia valley to investigate conditions.

Who is to blame? No one in particular. The lure of the West, the desire to own a home appealed to many who had heard of New Mexico's free lands, of its fine climate, of its productiveness, and they came. They selected land as they would in the East, land that sloped right, land that was fertile; that looked promising in the sunshine of fall or winter. They did not know that there are vast areas in New Mexico where the average rainfall is not sufficient to raise crops every year with scientific or any other kind of farming, where irrigation alone will carry crops over May and June. Nor did they know that there are vast areas where the rainfall is gen-

erally sufficient to raise such crops as are adapted to the climate and the soil and the comparative shortness of the growing season. Those whose selected lands in those sections and depended upon the first year's crop to establish them, have failed miserably this year for May and June were pitilessly dry.

Then again there were settlers who made their homes on good dry farming lands but expected to raise crops by merely sticking the seed in the soil, possibly of some crop needing lots of moisture, and sitting idly by to watch it grow. They had made no effort to store the moisture by fall and winter plowing, by harrowing in spring, by cultivation after each rain. They too, are disappointed and if they came without means to tide them over winter and next spring, they too are in a bad fix, but the blame is partly with themselves. Kansas and Nebraska went through this same experience and New Mexico cannot escape it.

Then there are a considerable number who made good; who settled in sections that had sufficient rains for a crop this year; or who by scientific farming carried their crops over the drought; or who have bought land in irrigated districts; or who pumped water; or who took up land near growing towns and disposed of them at a good figure; or who relinquished their homestead at good prices. It is to be feared that the speculative element entered into the coming of many a home seeker, but like a lottery, the prizes are few and far between.

This is not saying that New Mexico is not a land for the homeseeker. There are millions of acres to be had free that with the proper cultivation or by using the proper means can be reclaimed to make splendid homes for thousands of people, but New Mexico is not Illinois. The land to be cultivated must be properly chosen, it must be scientifically treated. Water is essential for raising crops and water must be conserved and procured somehow for the clouds do not yield it in sufficient quantity at the right time except during exceptional years. The selection of crops, the farming, therefore, must be scientific, where possible it should be supplemented by irrigation from reservoirs or pumps. Speculation without means is a hazardous game on New Mexico farms, just as it is elsewhere.

In the meantime, the people of New Mexico are face to face with an unpleasant situation. They must relieve those in actual need; they must enable those who desire to leave the Territory because of a crop failure to do so; they must tide over those who desire

to stay and above all they must impress all those who intend to come and who are here that hard work, scientific work, timely work and wise selection of soil and crops are essential to success in farming in New Mexico.

Misfortunes are thick in this valley of tears, the moans of the sorrowful come to our ears; the law of hard luck seems the governing law, and a package of grief is the prize that we draw. But if we would cut out the weeping and sighs, and quit pumping brine from our water-logged eyes, we'd soon find our troubles and sorrows disperse; for there's nothing so bad that it couldn't be worse. It's well to reflect when you're burdened with care and Trouble comes down with his feet in the air, that others have suffered as deeply as you, and raised just as much of a hullabaloo, and others have found that a bundle of woe is easy to lose, if you only think so. From the day you were born till you ride in the hearse, there is nothing so bad that it couldn't be worse. One day I was ranting around, pretty glum, for a felon was holding the fort on my thumb; the surgeon came in with his saw, and avowed that I was a baby for yelling so loud; "I sawed off the leg of your neighbor," he said "and never a whimper came out of his head." Oh, it's true as you live that—excepting this verse—there is nothing so bad that it couldn't be worse. —Walt Mason.

The New Court House.

[Santa Rosa Sun.]

The new court house was accepted and received by the commissioners on Tuesday. Presumably it was according to contract or it would not have been so accepted and received. So far as we are concerned, we have no comments to make.

One don't have to go far, however, to hear a lot of fault found, not only with the building thereof, but particularly with the finishings, little things that one always see, the stairways for instance; it is said they look as if they had been in use for ten years, and there are many other faults found with other parts of the building, the floors are badly cracked in many places and not solid.

It is thought by some that there were too many of our own people helping to get it off the hands of the contractors, who would not have been so anxious with a \$15,000 contract of their own.

The building will probably answer all required purposes until Guadalupe county shall have outgrown it and require larger quarters.

JUST CHIPS.

(By the Associate Axeman.)

Alabama is even trying to dry up the damp spots.

It's the big fakers that put the little "joker" into the tariff.

Wait till we get airship messenger boys.

Castles in Spain nowadays need to be bomb proof.

All smugglers and looters look alike to Loeb. More power to his good right arm.

The dominant political force in the recent Congress was Boston baked beans.

Now that he is proceeding with the approval of the Hon. Nick Longworth, President Taft feels reassured.

Sign now used in New York hotels: "Guests are requested not to shoot in the halls and lobbies."

One of the most dreary performances we can imagine would be a renewed prolonged debate on the tariff.

The Charleston News and Courier wonders whether there are any mint juleps in Hades. Never mind, you'll find out.

The New German Chancellor being six feet three inches high, it will be quite an exhibition to see the Kaiser call him down.

The more we think of it the more thoroughly we become convinced that Edward VII has the most attractive king job in Europe.

"When women go to Congress there will be less discussion of rates and more discussion of rats", says the Baltimore Sun. Also, probably less talking for the press and more for the dress.

Commercial Hotel

MRS. P. M. JARAMILLO, Prop'r.
ROOMS by the DAY, WEEK, or MONTH.
First Class Accommodations.

Economise In The Use Of Water.

[Santa Fe New Mexican.]

Dr. A. C. True, director of the office of experiment stations of the department of agriculture, in his address at the Irrigation Congress, was quite right when he said that the farmer from the east who settles under ditch does not know when nor how to apply the water to his soil. But he might have added that many of the older settlers are equally as ignorant upon the subject and in consequence one may see in New Mexico and other arid commonwealths a great waste of water and large areas of water-logged soil where the application of too much water has leached alkali to the surface. Continued

Dr. True:
"Taking the country as a whole however, and looking at the arid region from a national standpoint economy in water is more important. The highest estimate of the area which can be served by the available water supply is about 10 per cent of the total area, while the more conservative students of the arid region place it at 5 per cent. All admit that the water supply is the limiting factor in the development of the West. It follows then that every reduction in the quantity used upon a given area makes possible a corresponding increase in the area which can be reclaimed. The quantity of water actually used by plants in the process of growth is very small, as compared to the quantities diverted from streams for use in irrigation, and it may be possible to decrease this quantity by breeding drought resistant crop, but this does not offer a very large opportunity for saving on account of the small quantity required by any plants. But in order that plants may secure their supply it is necessary to (continued on page 5)